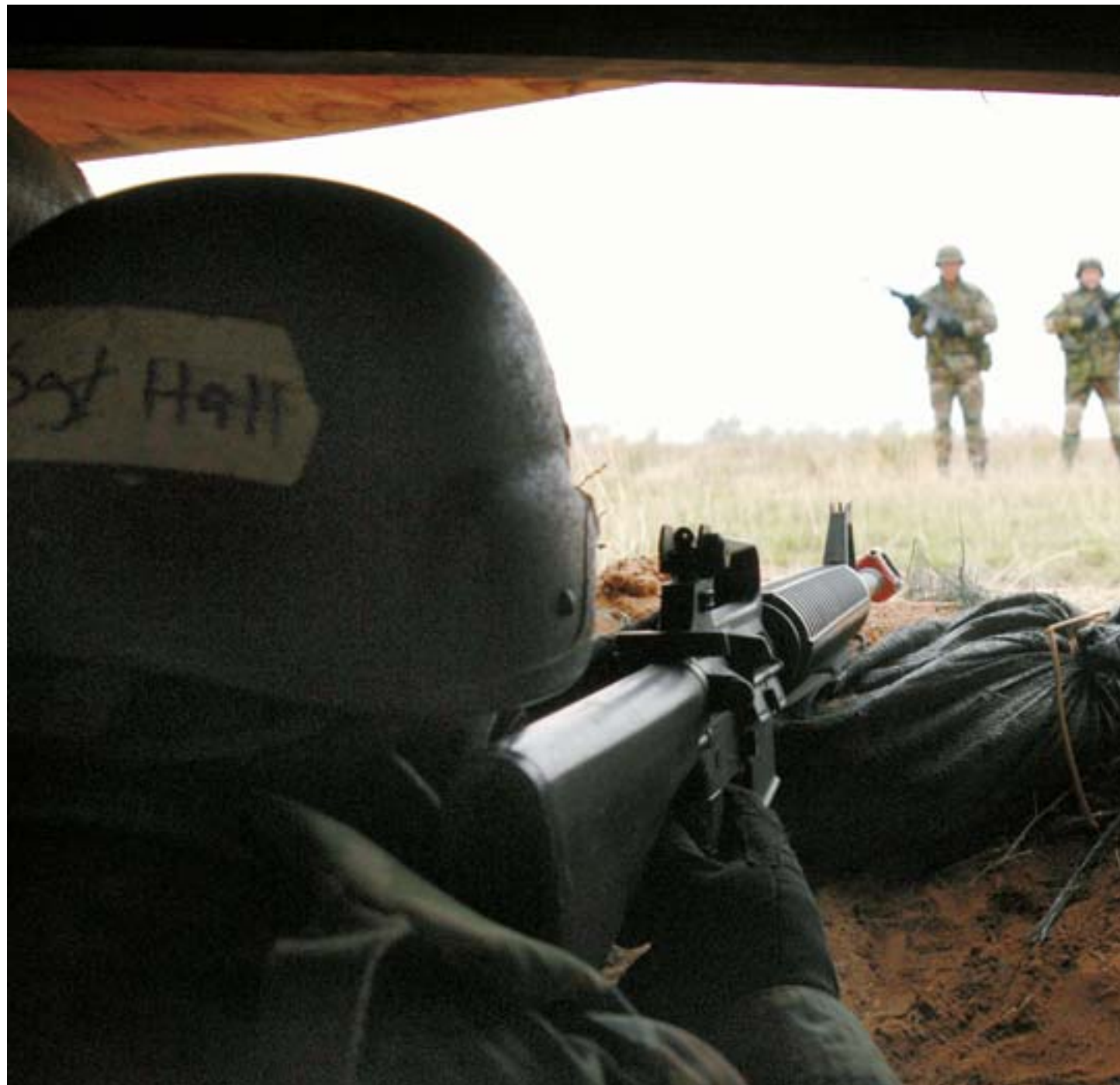




PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN HEATHER REDMAN

Senior Airman Betsy Ulyak, 27th Services Squadron, high crawls through the sand during ECS training.



Staff Sgt. Johnathan Hall, 27th Services Squadron, maintains a defensive fighting position in a bunker during Expeditionary Combat Skills training April 5-6.



Cannon Airmen march to the cantonement area to demonstrate what they learned during Expeditionary Combat Skills training. The training was conducted by the 27th Security Forces Squadron April 5-6 to prepare Airmen for their upcoming deployment.

Airmen hone combat skills

27th Security Forces Squadron oversees training for deployment

By Airman Elliott Sprehe
27th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Building defensive fighting positions, learning hand-to-hand combat skills and completing the mission in a hostile-fire zone are but a few training exercises Airmen learn when preparing for deployment, courtesy of the 27th Security Forces Squadron Expeditionary Combat Skills training.

The training, which happens Thursdays and Fridays, prepares Airmen, physically and mentally, to fulfill the Aerospace Expeditionary Force 7/8 rotation, which will start in May.

The two-day training consists of classroom-style learning on Thursday that includes computer-based training (CBT) as well as some hands-on training. On Friday, Airmen march to Camp Ready, the base cantonement area, for field training that uses the skills learned the previous day.

Airmen tasked to AEF 7/8 who are going to a location that falls under a Central Air Forces area of responsibility must complete ECS training according to Air Force regulations, said Kent Brund, ECS coordinator for the 27th SFS. The training must be done within 90 days of an Airman's scheduled deployment, no sooner or later, and includes a

total of 19 hours of training.

Mr. Brund coordinates with unit deployment managers and ensures everyone tasked to deploy completes the training within the allotted time period.

After the first day of training, the Airmen were able to get hands-on, which was "totally different than the first day," said Tech. Sgt. Tina Bryant, 27th Operations Support Squadron. "We were in the sand, dirt and gravel."

We were applying what we learned the first day while wearing a whole bunch of gear, said Sergeant Bryant.

There was a sufficient amount of time devoted to each section, said Tech. Sgt. Joe Sienkowski, 27th Communications Squadron.

"I have nothing but good things to say about the class," said Sergeant Sienkowski. "It was one of the better classes I've attended in the Air Force."

"I really enjoyed the class," said Sergeant Bryant.

"I applaud everyone who has gone through the class," said Mr. Brund. "We've trained all ranks from airman basic to lieutenant colonel and not one of them ever complained." They get out there, they hustle and they give it all they've got, said Mr. Brund.

There is one class still scheduled and when it's over, approximately 300 Airmen from Cannon will have gone through the course in preparation of their upcoming deployment.

If an Airman is deploying to the CENTAF AOR and has not attended this training, they should contact their UDM as soon as possible.



Airman Kelsey Cordes, 27th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, high crawls through the sand at Camp Ready with Senior Airman Betsy Ulyak during Expeditionary Combat Skills training.



Tech. Sgt. Tina Bryant, 27th Operations Support Squadron, attacks an enemy bunker during the second day of Expeditionary Combat Skills training.